

# Case Study: The Benson Pool

## The People Involved

**Project Champions:** Benson community members

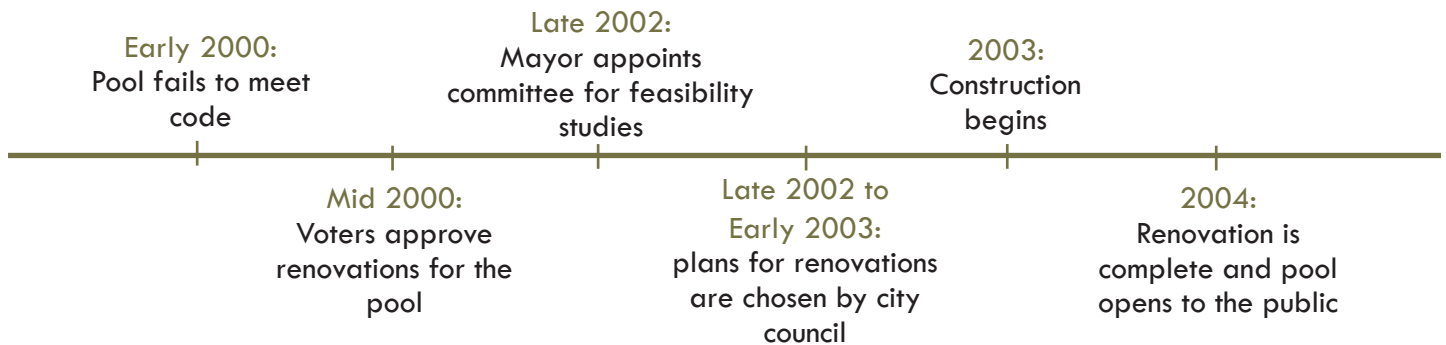
**Companies:** USAquatics

**City Manager:** Rob Wolfington



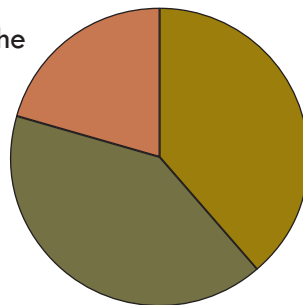
**Initial Goals:** The Benson pool was updated around 2004 in response to code violations. The city was faced with the decision to either renovate and maintain the pool or get rid of the pool altogether.

**Timeline:** The Benson pool was created in the early 1900s and has now had two major renovations. One was in the 1930s and the other was in 2000. In 2002, the city passed a referendum to complete a feasibility study for updating the pool. The feasibility study came up with good, better, and best plans for the renovation. The city council chose a plan and construction began in 2003 and was complete in 2004. The pool re-opened shortly afterwards.



**Results:** The Benson pool is highly supported by members of the community and is up to code. The city of Benson is still paying off the bonds used for funding the most recent update and expects to be done paying in 2022 according to the Benson Comprehensive Plan. If he were able to do the projected over again, Rob Wolfington, city manager of Benson, would have bonded for a larger amount of money and had the city use less of the general fund for the total cost of updating the pool.

**Funding:** The total cost of the Benson pool renovations was \$2.45 million, and was paid for through the city general fund, a general obligation bond, and from electric and construction departments.



**\$500,000** From Electric & Construction Departments  
**\$1,000,000** City General Fund  
**\$950,000** General Obligation Bond  
**Total Cost: \$2.45 million**

**Opposition:** There was no opposition to the pool update.

**Financial Sustainability:** The pool takes a loss in operating costs each year. The pool is about \$100,000 to operate each year but makes only \$55,000 in revenues. The other \$45,000 comes from the city's General Fund and a further \$25,000 to \$30,000 is taken for maintenance. The city has a contract with the Community Education department at the school, which has the responsibility to staff the pool and take care of planning events and running swim lessons. The city does this to cut operation costs of the pool.



Both photos from the Benson City website